

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 FRB-03
/072 W

-----088088 291225Z /43

O R 291006Z JUN 78 ZFF RUEHC RUFHNA
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0327
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUCHAREST 4516

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD ECIN RO XH COMECON EEWT

SUBJECT: THE VOTING CHANGE ISSUE AT THE COMECON SUMMIT IN
BUCHAREST: INTERIM REPORT

REF: (A) USNATO 6446, (B) WARSAW 5425, (C) BUCHAREST 4352

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1. SUMMARY. IF COMECON MAJORITY VOTING COMES UP AT JUNE 29
ECONADS, AND IF DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES NO OBJECTIONS, USNATO
MAY ALSO WISH TO DRAW ON FOLLOWING FROM RECENT BUCHAREST
DISCUSSIONS: HIGH-LEVEL ROMANIAN SOURCES POINT TO LONG
HISTORY OF QUESTION IN CEMA, CALL TANJUG REPORT
"INFLATED," DO NOT EXPECT ACTION "THIS YEAR, IN THIS
PLACE;" AND GERMAN SOURCE SPECULATES WHOLE AFFAIR IS

ROMANIAN-INSPIRED STIFFENING FOR OTHERS AND SMOKE SCREEN
ON DISCUSSION OF CRUCIAL ISSUES LIKE EC-CMEA ARRANGEMENTS.
THIS HAS SOME PLAUSIBILITY: MFA NO. 2 NOTED EC-CMEA
ARRANGEMENTS IN SAME BREATH WITH SATISFACTION OVER
GIEREK'S STATEMENT (IN KADAR'S PRESENCE) DISAVOWING
NEED FOR BASIC VOTING CHANGES. END SUMMARY.

2. FURTHER INFO CONCERNING VOTING RULES AT COMECON
SUMMIT DEVELOPED DURING ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST'S
JUNE 24-28 VISIT TO BUCHAREST MAY BE USEFUL BACKGROUND
FOR ECONADS IF SOURCES ARE PROTECTED AND IF DEPARTMENT
PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION.

3. IN VEST'S JUNE 28 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
ANDREI, LATTER SAID THERE IS SOMETHING TO RUMORS ABOUT
CHANGES IN COMECON VOTING PROCEDURES, BUT PROBLEM IS
NOT NEW. FOLLOWING 1970 RULES CHANGES INTRODUCING
"INTERESTED PARTY" PROCEDURES, THERE HAS BEEN "SERIES OF
TENDENCIES" TO REACH ALL DECISIONS BY MAJORITY VOTE.
THERE WAS EVEN AN INITIATIVE TO PREPARE DOCUMENT
PROVIDING FOR THIS, TO BE APPROVED AT MEETING OF
GENERAL SECRETARIES OF PARTIES. IN RESPONSE, EACH
COUNTRY HAS PUT FORWARD ITS IDEAS, AND THESE HAVE BEEN
DISCUSSED AMONG PARTY SECRETARIES. BUT SINCE NO
AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED, GENERAL SECRETARIES HAVE
NOT MET.

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4. THUS, TWO "PARALLEL POSITIONS" CONTINUE TO EXIST,
ANDREI SAID. DURING USSR 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
IN 1973 OR 1974, BREZHNEV HAD SAID RELATIONS BETWEEN
SOVIET UNION REPUBLICS ARE PROTOTYPE FOR RELATIONS
BETWEEN SOCIALIST STATES. ROMANIAN VIEW SINCE AT
LEAST 1969 CONGRESS IS THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN SOCIALIST
STATES WILL BE BASED ON SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE
FOR VERY LONG PERIOD TO COME. ISSUES CONNECTED WITH
INTEGRATION ARE NEITHER NEW NOR PECULIAR TO THIS
COMECON SESSION, AND "BALKAN NEWS AGENCY" REPORT (I.E.
TANJUG SOURCE FOR LE MONDE JUNE 16 ARTICLE) IS MERELY
SPECTACULAR TREATMENT OF FAMILIAR PROBLEM.

5. PREVIOUSLY, ON JUNE 26 SCINTEIA FOREIGN EDITOR
CAPLESCU HAD TAKEN SAME LINE AT ROMANIAN DINNER FOR
VEST THAT MOSCOW ROMANIAN EMBASSY PRESS SECRETARY TOOK
WITH REUTERS CORRESPONDENT ROBERT EVANS (AS HE REPORTED
SAME DAY): CHANGES IN VOTING RULES ARE NOT "FOR THIS
YEAR, AT THIS MEETING HOSTED IN BUCHAREST," ALTHOUGH IT
IS HARD TO TELL WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN AT NEXT YEAR'S 30TH
ANNIVERSARY SUMMIT IN MOSCOW.

6. MEANWHILE, ROMANIANS HAVE GIVEN US-ROMANIAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL MEETING EVEN MORE EQUAL TREATMENT WITH EASTERN CONFAB THAN THEY GAVE JOI F COMMISSION MEETING IN 1976, WHEN ELLIOT RICHARDSON HAD SCINTEIA BACK PAGE ALMOST TO HIMSELF DATING WARSAW PACT SUMMIT.(

CEAUSCESCU'S JUNE 27 MEETING WITH COUNCIL PARTICIPANTS AND VEST SHARED JUNE 28 SCINTEIA FRONWXPAGE WITH COMECON OPENING. ALTHOUGH ATMOSPHERE CHARACTERIZATION -- 2?COMRADELY ATMOSPHERE, WARM FRIENDSHIP AND CORDIALITY" -- FOR HIS RECEPTION OF COMECON HEADS OF STATE TOPS US RECEPTION -- "WARM CORDIALITY," -- HIS MEETING WITH FRATERNAL GUESTS, ALSO CAME A DAY LATER, ON JUNE 28
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REPORTED JUNE 29, AND TOASTS FOR DINNER THAT NIGHT HAVE NOT BEEN PRINTED.

7. AT AMBASSADOR'S JUNE 27 LUNCHEON FOR VEST, MFA MINISTER-STATE SECRETARY RADULESCU (MFA NO. 2) REPEATED LINE THAT CHANGES ARE NOT FOR THIS YEAR, AT THIS MEETING, BUT ADDED THERE ARE OTHER SERIOUS ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION, SUCH AS EC-CMEA ARRANGEMENTS, AND THEN YKNOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT GIEREK HAD PUBLICLY DENIED THE NEED FOR RULES CHANGES IN COMECON, IN KADAR'S PRESENCE, IN WARSAW (REF B). ON POINT OF DETAIL, RADULESCU SAID IT IS NOT POSSIBLE AT PRESENT FOR COMECON MEMBER TO DECLARE "INTEREST" IN SPECIFIC PROJECT AND THEN BLOCK FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION BY REFUSING TO LPRTICIPATE (SEE REF C). IN ANY EVENT,

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUCHAREST 4516

RADULESCU CONCLUDED FIRMLY, QUESTION OF VOTING
RULES CHANGES "IS NOT POSED" AT THIS MEETING. YUGOSLAVE
CORRESPONDENT ZFO HAD BROKEN STORY PRINTED IN LE MONDE
IS KNOWN TO ROMANIANS AS ARTFUL DODGER AMONG THE FACTS.
8. FINALLY, FRG ECON COUNSELOR TOLD HIS US COUNTERPART
JUNE 25 HIS GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS ONE OF MAIN POINTS
AT ISSUE IN CMEA SUMMIT WILL BE EC-CMEA RELATIONS,
GIVEN ROMANIAN PERSISTENCE IN AVOIDING ANY EC-CMEA AGREEMENT
WHICH WOULD INHIBIT OR PROHIBIT INDIVIDUAL CMEA MEMBER
STATE AGREEMENTS WITH EC ALONG LINES OF THOSE ROMANIA
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HAS ALREADY SIGNED FOR TEXTILES AND STEEL AND PLANS
TO SIGN FOR OTHER SECTORS. GERMANS HAVE HEARD THAT
YUGOSLAV PRESS REPORT WAS INSPIRED BY GOR AND
PRESUMABLY DESIGNED TO STIFFEN BACKBONES OF OTHER
CMEA MEMBERS AND CREATE SMOKE SCREEN COVERING TRULY
CRUCIAL ISSUES SUCH AS EC-CMEA ARRANGEMENTS.

9. SUMMARY. WHATEVER SOVIET-ROMANIAN-HUNGARIAN
TERRITORIAL ANGLE MAY EXIST (REF C), ABOVE EVIDENCE
PLAUSIBLY SUGGESTS THAT PUBLIC FLAREUP OVER VOTING
PROCEDURES MAY INDEED HAVE BENEFITTED FROM GOR
INSPIRATION, AND THAT GOR PROBABLY DID HAVE OTHER,
BIGGER FISH TO FRY: FREEDOM OF MANEUVER IN DEALING
WITH EC IS MAJOR POLICY GOAL FOR ROMANIANS AT A TIME
OF HARD SQUEEZE IN HARD CURRENCY TRADE. IF PURPOSE
WAS TO STIFFEN BACKS OF SMALLER PARTNERS LIKE GIEREK
AND KADAR, GIEREK'S JUNE 23 STATEMENT PRESUMABLY ALSO
GIVES THEM GROUNDS FOR SOME SATISFACTION.

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Message Attributes

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